NATIONAL FINANCES REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TREASURY DEPARTMENT, DECEMBER 26, 1851. The Secretary of the Treasury reports: RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES. The receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1851, sent and next sessions of Congress. Public Debt. The public registered debt on the 30th of November, 1850, was \$64,228,238.37; since which period the follow-943,106 65 ing reductions have been made, viz: account of the debt of the cities of the District of Co 52 312 979 87 lumbia, assumed by the act of 20th May, 1836 On account of the old funded and unfunded 58,917,524 86 On account of the lean of 1843 48,005,878 68 1,070,450 00 Leaving a balance in the Treasury July 1, On account of Mexican internal, S10,911,645 68 On account of Treasury notes paid in specie. On account of the loan of 1847

of the treaty with Mexico, for which the issue of stock was authorized, amounting to \$2,591,213.45, and the instalment under the 12th article of th at treaty, amounting to \$3,242,400, have been paid in car.h.

The public debt on the 20th ulti me, per was \$62,560,395.26, as follows, viz : Old funded and unfunded debt, ps yable on presentation 34,245,090 66 Debt of the District cities assum ad by Con-49,000,000,00 gress, (60,000) payable annu ally
-Treasury notes issued prior to 22d July,
1846, payable or fundable on presenta-2.100,000 00 400,000 00 51,500,000 00

Treasury notes issued under act of 22d July, 1846, do. . Treasury notes issued under act of 28th \$62,411,645 68 Total means January, 1847, do Loan of April 15th, 1842, due 21st Decem-EXPENDITURES, VIZ: ber, 1862, do. Loan of March 3d, 1843, due 1st July, 1853 6,237,931 35 \$10,987,586 31 Loan of July 22d, 1846, due 12th Novem-Loan of January 28, 1847, due 1st Janu-Loan of March 31st, 1848, due 1st July, ters, from 1st October, 1851, , ,

> Statement D, s' sowing the redemption of Treasury notes, is transmitted i a obedience to the requirements of the twenty-second s ection of the act of 28th January, 1847.

In addition to which, the awards under the 15th article

"The amou at of money expended at each custom-house in the U nited States during the fiscal year ending the 30th June last, the number of persons employed, and the occupatio a and salary of each person at each of said custom-hous is during the period aferesaid," is transmitted, (statem ent E,) in accordance with the sixth section of the act of 3 d March, 1849.

Ways and Means. The rece apts from customs for the last fiscal year, as be fore state 1, were upwards of forty-nine millions of dollars. Should our importations of foreign merchandise for the current and next fiscal years equal those of the past year, the revenue from that source for the three years ending 30th Jr.ne, 1853, will have been about \$150,000,000 Aside from demands upon the Treasury for our new Ter-ritories, this sum would have been sufficient to have met the ordinary expenses of the Government and to have liquidated the entire public debt. Notwithstanding those extraordinary demands, there has been effected, since the first of December last, a redemption of the registered debt to the extent of \$1,667,843.11. During the next fiscal year the loan of 3d March, 1843, due 1st July, 1853, must e provided for, and it is expected may be paid in cash out of the receipts from the usual sources of revenue. The amounts of the land fund to be invested in accordance with law will probably amount to about \$925,000. The old funded and unfunded debt, with the annual payments on account of the debt of the District cities, will probably amount to a further sum of \$61,800, making an aggregate proposed redemption of the public debt during the next fiscal year of \$7,234,792,85.

The premiums paid on \$2,523,200 of certificates of Government stock purchased at market rates amounted to \$325,655.24, or at a cost of more than one-eighth of the entire debt purchased. These rates, if applied to the whole debt as it stood on the 20th November last, would require for its liquidation, in addition to that amount, about the sum of \$8,074,318.57. The probability is that increased rates will follow a known demand by the Gov-

not demand that some discretion shall be given to the Department to purchase, out of any available surplus revenue, sound State stocks, when it can be done at or near par value, to be held as a sinking fund towards the reemption of the public debt as it becomes due, and thus save to the Government the large premium, which otherwise will be required in the redemption by purchase, at market prices, of the steck of the United States. In the opinion of this Department such a course is desirable,

thought expedient. The language of the act of 28th September, 1850, extending the grants of lands, has prevented the warrants issued by virtue thereof from passing into the hands of the actual settlers by assignment; and consequently the receipts from that source have not been seriously affected by that act. The receipts from sales of the public lands, for the quarter ending 30th September last, indicate a revenue from that source for the current year of upwards of two millions of dollars. Any excess of receipts over the expenses connected therewith is already appropriated, and therefore those receipts, whether more or less, can-not affect the balance in the Treasury subject to appropriation at the end of the fiscal year. The greater or less amount of public debt redeemed will depend upon the increase or diminution of such receipts. The revenue from imports, consequently, is the great source upon which the country has to depend for the means to carry on the

The unexpected addition to the boundaries of our counry, covering an area of more than five hundred and twenty-six thousand square miles, has without doubt been one cause of the large and sudden increase of our foreign importations, and consequent increased receipts from custom duties. Our expenses consequent upon such acquisition have more than kept pace with the increase of receipts, maining quarters of the current fiscal year will not exceed those of the corresponding quarters of the last year, sury. Revenue to meet these required expenditures must be provided for, and that during a period when our public debt is maturing. It cannot for one moment be thought advisable to presuppose a renewal of any portion of such debt, and therefore it should be our aim to obtain revenue amount to \$51,500,000. The total expenditures are estisufficient to meet these maturing liabilities, in addition to the annual expenses of the Government.

The receipts from all sources for the last fiscal \$52,312,979 87 amounted to . . . The appropriations to . Being an excess of receipts of -

The estimated aggregate receipts for the current fiscal year are placed at \$51,500,000. The expenditures, as estimated and appropriated, amount to \$50,952,902 59, being an excess of estimated receipts over estimated expenditures of \$547,097 41.

The receipts for the next fiscal year are estimated at \$51,800,000, the expenditures at \$42,892,299 19, being an excess of receipts over expenditures of \$8,907,700 81 Making an aggregate estimated excess of receipts over ex-penditures for the three years ending 30th June, 1853, of \$10,339,363.63; subject, however, to a reduction to the extent of any appropriations which may be made for this or the next fiscal years additional to the estimates submitted.

Should Congress appropriate to meet the ordinary wants of the Government, and to cover the expenditures required by our new Territories, as submitted by this Department, the belance, at the close of the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1853, will be more than sufficient to meet the amount required on the first of July following for the re-

demption of the public debt due on that day.

The question presents itself, in view of the absolute necessity for a continuance of the present receipts from customs, whether in all the branches of the industry of our country there is that healthy and vigorous action which is the basis of substantial and lasting prosperity. Without this we can with no certainty presume upon any

\$120,600 00 fixed amount of continuous receipts.

150,000 00 The gross exports (table 6) for the last fiscal year amounted to \$217,517,130; of which there was of specie \$29,231,880, and of foreign merchandise re-exported \$9,738,695, leaving, as the exports of domestic productions, the sum of \$178,546,555. This presents a large increase upon like exports of any previous year, and exceeds that of the last fiscal year in the sum of \$42,646,322. tending over the whole coast, which was under survey 77,200 00 I regret that this increase is merely of an accidental na- previous to July, 1850. The numerous hydrographic

> year previous was valued at but \$66,396,967. For the year ending 30th June last there were exported economy, recommend it, in the opinion of this Department, valued at \$112,515,317, averaging ment, warmly to the fostering care of Congress. 12 11-100 cents per pound; thus exhibiting an apparent 12 11-100 cents per pound; thus exhibiting an apparent excess in the value of this staple slone over that of the of the army and navy on the work as practicable, in addi-

previous year of \$40,880,701

Add for the ordinary expenses of the Government, as | previous year, and a still further advance upon the averper printed estimates, \$33,343,219.07, and we have the sum of \$42,892,299.19 as the total estimated demands upon the Treasury for the next fiscal year, leaving an establishment be borne in mind, however, that these values as reported timated unappropriated balance in the Treasury on the lare not always the prices realized on sales abroad. They lat of July, 1853, of \$20,366,443.90. This sum, it is because the declared values of the exporters from our country lieved, will be ample to meet the amount required on that against which bills of exchange are usually drawn, and day for the redemption of the loan of 1843, then drae, of not the prices received on actual sales; and it is notorious \$6,237,931.35, and such additional appropriations beyond the estimates submitted as may be made during the prethat the immense losses on the shipments of cotton during the last year have reduced the amount actually realized by the sales in Europe very far below the official value in the custom-house returns. The crop of the present year has exceeded that of the last, and will, from its abundance, probably restere the aggregate value to near the

average of previous years.

The exports of breadstuffs and provisions in 1847 were \$68,701,921; in 1849, \$38,155,507; and in 1851, \$21,948,653, which latter exceeds the exports of 1840, when the corn laws of England were in full force, only \$2,881,118. 230 300 00

corn laws of England were in full force, only \$2,881,118. The exports of rice for the last fiscal year, as compared with the previous year, exhibit a decrease of \$460,917, and that of tobacco a decrease of \$695,834. The products of planting and agriculture for the past year have been unusually large. All Europe, with inconsiderable exceptions, has been blessed with like abundance; and without some unexpected disturbing causes, seriously affecting markets abroad, there is every reason to articipate a still further decline in our exports for the coming pate a still further decline in our exports for the coming

650 00

\$1,667,848 10

Our total imports for last year amount to \$215,725,995. producing a revenue of more than forty-nine millions of hollars. The balances of trade during that period, in ad-

dollars. The balances of trade during that peried, in addition to the large amounts of the various stocks of the country, caused an export of upwards of twenty-nine in millions of specie. The export of the precious metals still continues, and at a rapidly increasing ratio, having amounted already, in the first five months of the current discal year, to \$27,594,236, which is nearly equal to the export for the entire year ending 30th June, 1851.

This increased ratio in the export of specie continues, notwithstanding the large supply of foreign exchange predicated upon the shipment of the cotton crop, which is now rapidly reaching the seaports at the Eouth, and is of course going forward to the European markets in very large quantities. When the bulk of this crop has been shipped, and the supply of cotton bills consequently diminished, the export demand for specie will of course be still further increased, unless there should be a very large falling off in the heavy importations of foreign productions.

With abundant and plentiful harvests, both at home and abroad; with a large excess in the production of cotton over that of the previous years, and its consequent de-cline in value; and with no evidences of any increased de-mand abread for our general exports, the grave and diffi-cult question of our ability to pay for these continued large importations presents itself for the consideration of

Should the large importation of foreign fabrics continue to increase until they drive from the market the like articles of domestic manufacture, it follows as inevitable that the labor of our people now engaged in manufactures must be driven mainly into planting and farming. The must, with equal certainty, produce a superabundance of the latter products with no increased market for them abroad, and a greatly diminished demand for them at

If this state of things shall be realized, it follows tha the ability of the people to purchase foreign commodities will be destroyed; importations must greatly diminish in amount, and the revenue at once sink far below its present swollen amount. It should constantly be kept in view that our system of revenue is not compulsory, but depends solely on the voluntary contributions of the people. If our citizens refuse, or are unable to purchase foreign goods, the revenue now almost solely relied on must cease, and the Government be driven to direct taxation for itannual support and the ultimate liquidation of a large

From these considerations arises the great duty of Con gress so to regulate foreign commerce, if possible, as to tween it and the latter is as 1 to 15.988, the real intrinsic cherish that labor at home, the proceeds of which are our market value is only about 1 to 15.675. A debtor, then sole reliance for the revenues indispensable to the wants of the Government.

I respectfully refer to the suggestions on this subject in my report to the last session of Congress. The experience of the last year has developed no facts which duce me to question the propriety of the changes in the present tariff laws which I then submitted to Congress. On the contrary, information derived from the most relia-ble sources has confirmed what was then anticipated. Much of the raw cotton formerly wrought into fabrics by the labor of our citizens now goes abroad, and returns to us for sale in a form vastly augmented in value, and to that extent the labor of our own citizens has been diminished in value and driven into other pursuits.

The history of iron manufacture for the last few year furnishes an instructive lesson to the statesmen of this country. This article enters into such general use in every occupation of life in all countries advanced beyond the first step of civilization, that it may well take rank amonget the necessaries of life in this country.

	necessaries of the m time count			
*	The importations of bar and pi	g iron fo	or the year	ending
r	30th September, 1842, were		100,055	tone
	The estimated production in the	he United	1	
S	States for that period -		- 230,000	44
t	Making an aggregate consump	tion of	- 330,055	44
8	Or 40% pounds per head.			
,	In 1846 the importations were		- 765,000	44
9	and the production est	imated a	t 69,625	14
	Consumption -		834,625	44
5	Or 92 lbs. per head.		004,020	
f	In 1848 the importations were		158,377	46
	and the production		800,000	44
1	and the production		000,000	
	* Communition		953,877	11
	Consumption -		200,011	100
	Or 993 1 bs. per head.		200 007	
	In 1849 the importations were		280,087	**
	the production -	*	650,000	
	0 "	3	000 000	
	Consumption -		939,687	**
	Or 95; lbs. per head.			
1	In 1850 the importations were		337,532	**
	the production -	* 1 100	564,000	44
ı				
	Consumption -		901,532	**
	Or 86% lbs. per head.			
d	In 1851 the importations were		341,750	44
	the production -		413,000	**
		the male		
	Consumption -		754,750	44
٠	Or 694 lbs. per head.			
ŧ.	Thus we perceive that the ac-	tual con	emmetion o	P twom

Thus we perceive that the actual consumption of irot which, under high duties and prices, was steadily augmenting in quantity, is, under the present reduced rates both in duties and prices, gradually falling off, notwithstanding the increase of population and the great extension sion of our farming interests.

That this great interest is in a most depressed condition the foregoing comparative production, being for the pre-sent year less than one-half the capacity of the works, sufficiently attests. From the evidence furnished to this Department, it is clear that the rolling mills, the charcoal furnaces and forges are utterly unable to produce iron at the prices at which it is now imported. last year many establishments were enabled to survive only by carrying the iron to the high stages of manufac-ture, as the making of nails and forged work. At the short time the total prostration of this industry, which, once destroyed, will require many years to replace it upon its present footing as to skill and experience, and we shall become dependant upon foreign countries for the most important material in the arts of peace and the most indispensable of the muniments of war.

I present with this report several tables, intended to show the sudden and extraordinary fall in the invoice values of certain articles, which, prior to the tariff act of 1846, had been subject to specific duties, but which by that law were made subject to duties ad valorem. It must be apparent, from these tables, that great frauds are practised by undervaluations daily, which no expedient can prevent, unless such articles as are set forth these tables are charged with specific instead of ad valorem duties.

Coast Survey. The Coast Survey, under the superintendence of Prof. A. D. Bache, has made excellent progress during the past year. Its operations have been continued in all the States of the Atlantic and Pacific coast. The series of nearly continuous triangulation spoken of in my report of last year now extends from the mouth of the Kennebeck, in Maine, to beyond Ocracoke inlet, in North Carolina The work has been assiduously prosecuted in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, is nearly completed in Ala-bama and Mississippi, and has made good progress in Louisiana and Texas, and on the western coast of California and Oregon. The report of the superintendent will show the details of progress: with it is a most valuable and extended list of geographical positions determinture, and likely to be confined to the year just past.

By reference to table H, it will be seen that for the year ending the 30th June, 1850, there were exported of being thus shown in a form suited to immediate use 239,675 00 year ending the 30th June, 1850, there were exported 635,381,604 pounds of cotton, at an average value of 431,240 00 \$71,984,616, while 1,026,602,269 pounds exported the 963,250 00 year previous was valued at but \$66,396,967. For the

tion to the civilians, has been steadily kept in view, and The very deficient crop of 1849-50 caused an enhance- at present sixty-six navy officers and twelve army officers 9,549,080 12 ment in the value of cotton of nearly double that of the are attached to the survey.

The reasons given in my report, in reply to resolutions of the Senate in the early part of the last session of Congress, why the present organization of this great work should be maintained, and its control remain, as at present, in the Treasury Depart nent, met so general an acquies-cence on the part of Congress, and, I may say, of the whole country, that I refer to it merely to express my un-shaken confidence in the value of that organization, the shaken confidence in the value of that organization, the fruits of which the whole country is now so abundantly

reaping.

The Saperintendent of the Coast Survey has, under the third section of the lighthouse act, caused examination for sites for lighthouses to be made by the officers of the survey, and has reported, as by law directed, on the necessity for construction in all cases where the Fifth Auditor had been doubtful. This duty has been promptly and acceptably discharged, and constitutes a new claim on the part of the Coast Survey to consideration.

Mint The operations of the mint during the past year have been conducted with efficiency, and with highly satisfactory results. Under the present system the depositors promptly receive the value of their bullion so soon as it is assayed, and though the deposites are made in large masses, at short intervals, on the arrival of the Californic steamers, yet the assays are made and the payments commenced usually within forty-eight hours, and the whole generally completed within an average of five or six days fter these heavy amounts of bullion-frequently by tw and three hundred different depositors—are received at the mint; and the whole duty is performed without any charge to the depositors, except a mere fractional per centage for the actual cost of separating the bullion. It is believed that equal facilities are not presented to individuals by the mints of any other nation as are now given

The realization of the value of these large quantities of bullion by the owners of it without loss, within a few days after it arrives in the United States, is accomplished b means of the heavy bullion fund which can at present ! means of the heavy bullion fund which can at present be spared without inconvenience from the excess of means in the Treasury. It may, however, not always be convenient to keep so large an amount reserved for this purpose from the public funds; and, even if it were otherwise, the amount of this fund applied to the purchase and extinguishment of so much of the national debt would save nearly \$400,000 annually in interest now paid by the Treasury. It is be-lieved this saving could be effected, and all the advantages at present enjoyed by the depositors of gold or other bul-lion still retained, if, instead of paying the mint certificates in cash, as is now done, Congress would make them re-ceivable for all dues to the Government, under suitable restrictions as to the time and place of their receipt. I can see no reasonable objection to such use of these certificates, as they are the evidences of so much bullion al-ready in the actual possession of the Government, and for which the coin itself would be forthcoming, generally in a

few days, and always in a few weeks. In connexion with the subject of the mint, I deem it my duty to call the attention of Congress to the present stan dard value of gold and silver, as established by the exist-

ing laws.

The relation of gold to silver in the legal coinage of the United States is as 1 to 15.988; in Great Britain, as 1 to 14.288, and in France, as 1 to 15.499. Thus it will be seen that one ounce in pure gold will, in the United States, be equal to that produced from the coinage of 15.988 ounces of pure silver; in Great Britain it will be equal to that derived from only 14.288 ounces pure silver; and in France to 15.499 ounces. So soon, therefore, as the state of our foreign commerce, as is now the case, requires an exportation of specie, it is obvious that our silver coin must be exported whilst it can be procured, till the demand for exportation is supplied.

From the operation of this law of commerce arises the

present scarcity of our silver currency. At this time, though our silver coin commands a premium in exchange for gold, it is notwithstanding still found more advantageous for shipment abroad than gold. In consequence of the premium on silver, though the relative legal value bewho offers silver in payment must give it at the rate of 15.988 ounces in coin, by which he loses 313-thousandths of an ounce; for with 15.675 ounces he could purchase one ounce of gold, which latter would be a legal tender for the same debt. It is to be borne in mind, however, that though the relative value of coin in Great Britain i as 1 to 14.288, that is not the relative bullion value of the two metals, which is about 1 to 15.716, the silver coin of that country being about ten per cent. less in value than silver bullion of the same weight; that is to say, the silver coin of that kingdom will go ten per cent. further in paying debts than an equal weight of pure silver bullion at the standard value. A difference so great in the value of the two species of coin has not, of course, been the result of either miscalculation or mistake, but was brought result of either miscalculation or mistake, but was brought about by design, and with the same views which it is believed will render it necessary for us to adopt a similar plan, in order to retain and maintain a silver currency. The obvious policy of this system was to secure the gold and silver coinage of Great Britain against the fluctuations arising from the relative value of gold and silver. In Great Britain 14.288 ounces of silver coin is equal in payment to 15.988 ounces in the United States, and 15.499 in France. It is very clear, then, that there is no inducement to export silver coin to either country from Great Britain.

Though the British Government manufactures one hunin coin from bullion ninety shillings, it does not permit individuals to bring ninety shillings in bullion to the mint and receive in ex-change one hundred shillings in coin; but, on the contrary, the community is obliged to pay the par value for all the silver coin it requires. It must give £5 in pure gold or silver for one hundred shillings in coin. Coinage being a monopoly by the Government, the latter can impose such terms as it deems necessary and advisable, and the public, within certain limits, will pay the Govern-ment its own price for the benefit of the mint stamp. In fixing, therefore, the proper relative value which should be established between our gold and silver coins, it should not be done with regard to the value of our

coins in reference to foreign coin, but as to their intrinsic value as bullion in foreign countries.

The relative value of our gold and silver coins is, as already stated, as one to 15.988; and the bullion value of our silver coin in England is 15.716, being a difference of 272-thousandths, or nearly two per cent. It follows, then, as a matter of course, that on all occasions where the course of our foreign trade requires heavy shipments abroad, our silver coin will be first sought after for that purpose, even at a premium; and, consequently, will dis-

appear from circulation, as it has already done to a very great extent. There seems to be but one immediate and direct remedy for this evil, and that is the one which has already been adopted in Great Britain, of changing the relative value between gold and silver coin, by reducing the intrinsic value of the latter. The opinion of the officers of the mint (fh which judicious persons, whose opinions are en-titled to great weight, concur) is, that this change could be advantageously made, by making our dollar weigh three hundred and eighty-four grains, and the smaller coins in proportion; so that eight hundred ounces of such coin ould be worth by tale exactly \$1,000. The director of the mint, in a communication on the subject, says: "If such a scale of weights were adopted, the relation of silver in such pieces to gold would be as 14.884 to one; and if the present true relation or bullion value is about 15.675 present time the prices are below the cost of production. It the present policy continues, we must witness in a short time the total prostration of this industry, which, less than in British silver, or in the worn Spanish coin by law about five per cent., a very small advance, and far less than in British silver, or in the worn Spanish coin which now monopolizes our circulation."

In the adjustment of this subject, it will be necessary to

consider the depreciation in the value of gold which may have taken place already or shall hereafter occur, in conhave taken place already or shall nereatter occur, in con-sequence of the immense additional supplies which have been, and will no doubt continue to be, thrown into circu-lation from California, Australia, and other countries. This consideration might justify a much greater present

roposed advance.

If this plan is adopted by Congress, it of course will in volve the necessity of making silver coin a legal tender only for debts of small amount, say not exceeding ten dolars, which is about the same limit (forty shillings) which nas been established in Great Britain.

The subject of a change in the coinage of the country is one of very great importance, and involves consequen-ces which require the most serious consideration and deliberate action. That the present relative value of our gold and silver coin requires some change there can be ittle doubt; and I have therefore deemed it my duty to bring the subject to the notice of Congress.

The great increase in the amount of bullion which now comes to the United States for coinage, compared with

former times, seems to require the establishment of branches to the mint at those points where the largest amount of bullion and foreign coin are received. Any transportation of those articles beyond the places where they are produced, or received from abroad, is attended with delay risk, and expense, which should be avoided, if possible, without too great expense to the Government. The State of California is now producing gold dust cer-

tainly equal in amount to seventy-five millions of dollars, and probably equal to one hundred millions of dollars a year. The information in possession of this Department warrants the opinion that this product will not be diminshed in amount for many years to come.

The distance from San Francisco, by way of the Isth-mus of Panama and New York, to the mint at Philadelphia, is about 6,250 miles. The precious metals there found have, therefore, to be transported that distance and back, at great risk and expense, before the owner can receive its equivalent in the legal coin of the United States.

Such a burdensome tax upon the interests of California should be removed by the establishment of a branch mint at the most eligible point in that State.

removed, when the erection of the building will be immediately commenced.

All or nearly all of the lighthouse structures, for which appropriations were made by the act of 3d March, 1851, have been delayed because of the preliminary examina-

Nearly all the importations of specie and bullion concentrate at the port of New York; two-thirds of all the centrate at the port of New York; two-thirds of all the customs duties collected in the country are there paid in specie. Sound policy demands that at that great commercial and financir'l centre a branch mint should be established, which should be the custodian of the large amount of public moneys there collected, and which will enable foreign coin and bullion to be converted most speedily into our own currency, without the risk, delay, and expense of transportation to any other point.

It is believed that the establishment of such an institution at that point would not charge much additional annual expense upon the Treasury. The Treasurer thereof

nual expense upon the Treasury. The Treasurer thereof would supersede the office of Assistant Treasurer. The branch mints at Dahlonega, Georgia, and Charlotte, North Carolina, may be converted into assay offices, whereby several superfluous officers might be dispensed with. The deposites of bullion at those establishments have been regularly declining, without any decrease in the annual expenses. The transportation from thence of bars and ingots, the values of which would be attested by Government assayers, would be easily effected at little risk or

expense.
For these and other reasons, heretofore expressed by my predecessors, I carnestly recommend the immediate establishment of branch mints at New York and San Francisco, and the discontinuance of those in North Carolina and Georgia as mints for coinage, retaining them as assay offices, under such regulations as to the number of

officers, &c. as Congress may deem proper.

The expenses of the mint and branches have of course greatly increased since the accession of California, and will be still further augmented in case Congress should determine to establish the two additional branches at San Francisco and New York. I would therefore suggest for the consideration of Congress the propriety of authorizing a small seigniorage on the bullion deposited by corporations or individuals for the purpose of covering the actual expenses of coinage, instead of allowing the latter to remain as an exclusive charge upon the Treasury. This, it is believed, is the universal usage at all other national mints, and the charge would be but a mere fractional per

mints, and the charge would be but a mere fractional percentage, amounting only to a very few cents per ounce.

This Department is now required by law to submit annually to Congress the mint assays of certain foreign
coins; and it is recommended that this requirement be
extended so as to embrace annual assays of the coins of
those foreign countries with which the United States have
any conciderable commercial intersequence, and that an appropriation not exceeding one thousand dollars be made
to defray the annual expense of procuring such foreign
coin as can only be obtained from abroad.

Invaices of merchandise imported from foreign coun-

Invoices of merchandise imported from foreign coun tries, and subject to ad valorem duties, are required by our existing revenue laws to be made out in the currency of the country whence the shipment is made, and the value which such currency shall have in computations at our custom-houses has from time to time, in respect to several foreign countries, been prescribed by specific laws.

The President of the United States is authorized, by

the sixty-first section of the act of 1799, to establish t and proper regulations for estimating duties on imported merchandise, the original cost of which shall be exhibited in depreciated currency issued and circulated under the authority of any foreign Government. In the execution of this power consuls of the United States are required to certify on invoices of merchandise shipped from the countries of their residence and made out in depreciated currency, or in a currency the value of which is not fixed by our laws, the value of such currency in Spanish or United States silver dollars. It is obvious, however, so far as the foreign currency consists of coin, that the most our laws, the value of such currency in Spanish of accurate and reliable method of ascertaining its value, as compared with our own, is by an actual assay at the mint.

While the results of such annual assays will place with in the power of the President the best means of performing the duty of establishing fit and proper regulations on the subject, they will also enable Congress to revise and correct, from time to time, by further legislation, the values in custom-house receipts and computations of the foreign coins already fixed and regulated by our laws. It e observed that the proceeds of the coins thus procured will, after assay, be returned to the Treasury and carried to the credit of said appropriation for subsequent disbursement, in like manner. It will, therefore, be reduced only by the expense of transmitting the coin from abroad and the loss consequent upon their assay.

Miscellaneous. By the second section of the act of 10th August, 1846, the money received from the property of John Smithson, amounting to \$515,169, was lent to the Treasury at six per cent. interest, and in addition to the interest which had accumulated on this fund at the time of the passage of said act, amounting to \$242,129, the Treasury has con tinued to pay, under the provisions of said law, an annual interest of upwards of thirty thousand dollars. During the whole of this latter period a large surplus, includ-ing, of course, this fund, has been lying unproductive in the Treasury, and the above annual payment has been an extra charge upon the Treasury, and will so continue to be, unless Congress should think proper to otherwise order. As there is at present every prospect of a continued large surplus in the Treasury, I would respectfully suggest, in order to save this annual payment, that the Department should be authorized to make the above fund actually productive, by investing the full amount in stocks of the United States, on terms which will render the result equally advantageous to the Smithsonian Institute as it now is under the present annual payments direct from

The Board of General Appraisers established in pursu ance of the third section of the act of 3d March, 1851 entitled "An act to amend the acts regulating the appraisement of merchandise, and for other purposes," promptly entered upon their general duties as contemplated by that act. During the past season one of the board, under instructions of this Department, visited the several ports upon our northern frontier; and, from the information communicated by him, and the satisfactory manner in which he executed his instructions, the most beneficial results must follow. Another of the board is bout to proceed to California, and it is not doubted by the Department that the action of the General Appraisers will tend very materially to establish that uniformity in appraisements so desirable, and by which both the revenue and the honest importer will be greatly benefited.

By the act of 3d March, 1845, no revenue cutter nor steamer can be purchased or built unless an appropriation herefor shall be made.

The several iron steamers then in progress of construction have been condemned as unfit for revenue purposes. Some of the sailing cutters have become unseaworthy, and the number of vessels appertaining to this branch of the service has been, therefore, necessarily reduced to an ex-tent injurious to the interests of the revenue.

The brig Lawrence, now on the western coast, is found to be unsuited to this service, in consequence of the great expense attendant upon keeping a vessel of her size in commission, and the want of proper sailing qualities. I therefore recommend that authority be given for her disposal, and the building of six additional vessels, which are required for our greatly-extended coast. Should authority be given, as suggested, to sell the "Lawrence," and appropriate the proceeds towards the building and equipping of the six new vessels, there will be required in additional disadvantage to the plaintiff, and would be no additional disadvantage to the unnecessary and additional disadvantage to the unnecessary and would be no additional disadvantage to the unnecessary expense attendant upon keeping a vessel of her size in

I would respectfully recommend to Congress a con rable increase to the pay of the officers of the revenue marine employed on the Pacific, where their present compensation is entirely inadequate, in consequence of the very heavy expenses to which they are unavoidably subject in that quarter. Whilst the army there has had its pay greatly augmented, and all the civil officers connected with the collection of the revenue receive double salaries to what are paid at the Atlantic ports, the officers of the revenue marine alone are left without any addition to their pay. At this time the seamen on board the revenue cut ters there are receiving nearly the same pay as the com-missioned officers, and at an earlier date instances occurred where the former have actually received higher rates

This consideration might justify a much greater present over-valuation of silver coin, as the future depreciation of gold will probably soon overcome the limit of the present proposed advance. ture, but also have a retroactive effect. Numerous appropriations were made during the last ession of Congress for additional marine hospitals and

lighthouses, and also for the continuation and completion of similar works previously commenced. Some of these structures have been finished and occupied since the adjournment of Congress, and several are so nearly completed as to warrant the expectation that they may be occupied within the ensuing sixty days. The marine hospitals at Pittsburg, Cleveland, Louisville, Paducah, and Chicago are among those thus finished and occupied, or expected to be occupied within the period stated. Those in process of erection at Natches, Napoleon, and Saint Louis are in such a state of forwardness as to justify the belief that they will be finished early in next year. Re-ports from the officers and agents employed in the supertendence of these works are herewith transmitted. A site for a marine hospital at Evansville, Indiana, has een selected, but no conveyance of the land has yet

reached the Department, and all further steps are necessarily impeded until the title is perfected.

A design for the marine hospital at San Francisco was adopted soon after the appropriation for this object was

made, and a commissioner appointed and dispatched to that city in March last, with a view to the commencement of this work on a site which was then understood and still believed to be the property of the United States. Difficulties, however, presented themselves in connexion with the titles thereto, sufficient, in the opinion of the Commissioner, to authorize a suspension of the work. Recent advices, however, lead to the belief that they will soon be removed, when the crection of the building will be immediately commenced.

been delayed because of the preliminary examina-

tions enjoined by the second and third sections of that act, and several authorized by previous acts, on account of the requirements of the joint resolution of Congress, dated 11th September, 1841, as will be seen from the report of the Superintendent of the Lighthouse Establish

The Department has not yet succeeded in making a de finite contract for the erection of the lighthouses on the Pacific coast, which have been authorized by Congress, and great difficulty exists in accomplishing that object, in consequence of what is considered the inadequate appro-priation, in the opinion of those best capable of judging of the facts and circumstances connected with their construction in that portion of the Union.

The Department will probably have to await the further action of Congress, and if additional appropriations are made at an early day, the whole of the structures could be commenced in the spring, so soon as the rainy season has terminated, in which case it is believed they can be completed and put into operation previous to the ensuing

In pursuance of the authority given to the Department by the 8th section of the act of 3d March, 1851, entitled by the 8th section of the act of 3d March, 1801, entitied "An act making appropriations for lighthouses, lighthouses, buoys," &c., a board of officers, constituted as directed by the provisions of that act, was organized soon after its passage. The board is composed of the following officers, viz: Gen. Totten and Col. Kearney, of the ing officers, viz: Gen. Totten and Col. Kearney, of the Army; Commodore Shubrick and Commander Dupont, of the Navy; Prof. Bache, Superintendent of the Coast Survey; and Lieut. Jenkins, of the Navy, as secretary.

The attention of the board has been directed to the objects contemplated by Congress. The result of their labors will be transmitted in a separate report at an early day.

The completion of the experiment for testing the use and economy of the calcium light has been delayed by the sickness of the inventor, and other causes. It is expected however that a full expert thereof will be made to an experiment of the second content of the causes.

ed, however, that a full report thereof will be made at an early day, which, when received, will be trans Congress.
Sites for the new custom-houses authorized at Bangor, Pittsburg, Louisville, Saint Louis, and Mobile have been selected and purchased, and the necessary measures for the erection of suitable buildings are in progress. The limited appropriation for the site and building authorized

limited appropriation for the site and building authorized at Cincinnati will not justify the prosecution of that work beyond the purchase and location of the site. I have, therefore, submitted an additional estimate which is required to enable the Department to creet a building adapted to the several purposes specified by Congress.

The restriction placed upon the appropriation for a custom-house and lot at Bath, Maine, has prevented any expenditure for that purpose being made. The purchase of a suitable site will absorb so large a proportion of the appropriation as to forbid the erection of a building with the limited amount remaining at the disposal of the Department. An additional appropriation of \$25,000 is therefore recommended.

therefore recommended.

The requirements of the joint resolution of 11th September, 1841, not having yet been complied with in relation to the site for a custom-house at Norfolk, selected by the commissioners appointed for the purpose, the commencement of that structure has necessarily been delayed. No information in regard to a proper site for the custom-house authorized in the Territory of Oregon has yet herefore recommended.

been received. It is expected that the custom-house at Savannah will The work upon the New Orleans custom-house has progressed as rapidly as circumstances would allow; that at Charleston, S. C. will be prosecuted with every desire for

its completion at the earliest practicable day.

The intrinsic difficulties in construing and enforcing many of the provisions of our existing revenue and collec-tion laws, and particularly those levying duties on imports, have given rise to a multiplicity of suits against the collecting officers; and often, under the practice of indemnifying collectors, who seem to have acted in good faith, the United States are subjected to heavy bills of costs. In many instances such suits are not really necessary

to procure redress for the party aggrieved, as relief might be generally obtained through an application to the Tr sury Department.

By the 24th section of the tariff act of 1842 it is made

the duty of collectors and other officers of the customs to execute and carry into effect all instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury relative to the execution of the revenue laws; and his decision is conclusive and binding upon them. As a proper protection of the officer, as well as to prevent the unnecessary accumulation of costs, it is respectfully suggested that some provision be made by law to prevent the institution of suits against collectors for their acts in executing the revenue and collectors for their acts in executing the revenue and collection laws until an application shall have been made to the Depart-ment for relief, and denial thereof, prescribing some pe-riod within which such application and decision by the Department shall be made. Such a provision would seem the more expedient, inasmuch as the Department cannot in many cases exercise the power conferred by law in advance, and not even on an appeal from the collector's decision, without delaying the business of the importer and the Government. Many cases of this character arise in distant sections of the Union, where such necessary delay would often prove of serious detriment to all concerned.

The parties would thus save all their legal rights in any event, and the Department could often prevent the necessity and expense of litigation by affording relief.

In addition to such provision, it is also respectfully suggested that some regulation should be made by law as to and collection laws, and also to enable the Department to bring up such cases for final decision to the Supreme Court, whatever may be the amount in controversy. Such a process would settle the law in such cases, and thus constitute the rule of administration and prevent much expensive litigation. Suits involving the same principles are often upon the docket at the same time, and the decision of one ought to be sufficient to control the disposition of all. Some additional powers to enable the court, in cases involving the same construction of law, to consolidate suits against collectors, whether instituted by the same or different parties, would answer all the purposes of justice, and prevent the unnecessary multiplication of costs. It is also respectfully suggested whether the provisions of the act of the 22d of July, 1813, "An act concerning suits and costs in courts of the United States," might not be and costs in courts of the United States," might not be extended or modified as to suits against public officers for acts under the revenue and collection laws as to make some fixed and specific regulations limiting the allowance and amount of costs. Under the provisions of existing laws, plaintiffs within the same State with the collector may commence suit against him in State courts, and the defendant, by petition to the circuit court, can have the suit removed, and entered on the docket of that court. As the defendant in such cases will doubtless ordinarily, if not always, avail himself of this privilege, it is suggested whether such suits might not properly be required to be brought originally in the Federal courts, which would be no additional disadvantage to the plaintiff, and would

long been inapplicable to the condition of our commerce and of the country. A repeal of obsolete and useless provisions, and a proper arrangement of the residue under appropriate titles, with judicious amendments and additions, and the whole comprised within a single statute, or connected series of statutes, so as to be readily referred to connected series of statutes, so as to be readily referred to and understood, would be a measure of great public utili-ty, promote a more uniform and faithful administration of the laws, and afford a more certain protection to the interests of the Government and the commercial com-

Further legislation in connexion with portions of our commerce is undoubtedly necessary. Our coasting laws, nowever wise and useful in the infancy of the country, contain many provisions still in force, which, in conse-quence of the increased facilities which steam offers for ransportation by land and water over our largely-extended territory, are not only totally useless, but in atious and embarrassing restraints on the coastwise and interior commerce, without furnishing any adequate security to the public revenue. In consequence of this state of the laws, importers are often obliged, at no inconsiderable expense, to entrust their business with the custom nouses to agents supposed to be well versed therein; and the difficulty on the part of the officers of the customs, as well as importers, of correctly understanding and apply-ing the provisions of such a complex mass of legislation, gives rise to frequent and expensive litigation, augments the business at the custom-houses and at this Department, and gives to the operation of law that uncertainty which it is the duty of every wise Government to avoid.

Respectfully, Secretary of the Treasury. An interesting case to the scientific and literary world

as lately decided in the U. S. Circuit Court at Boston. was lately decided in the U.S. Circuit Court at Boston.
It appears from the evidence that, during the summer of
1848, an arrangement was entered into between Edward
Desor, of Neufchatel, a geologist, and Lieut. Charles H.
Davis, of Cambridge, (names well known in scientific circles,) to produce a joint work on the "Geological Effects
of the Tidal Currents of the Ocean." Mr. Davis subsequently declined to proceed in the new enterprise. Hence
an action was brought by Mr. Desor to recover the value in action was brought by Mr. Desor to recover the value of the time and labor devoted to the work, estimated at \$2,000. The defence set up was, that there was no contract between the parties to prosecute the undertaking, but that their association was merely for mutual scientific investigation. The plaintiff produced witnesses, and an outline of the contents of one of the proposed works in the defendant's handwriting, to show that he was for a period of several months busily and devotedly prosecuting his investigations, the results of which would probably be lost to him by the cossation of the joint enterprise. verdict was rendered for the plaintiff; damages \$1,000.

From customs From public lands From miscellaneous sources Add balance in the Treasury July 1, '50 The expenditures for the same fiscal year (As appears in detail by accompanying statement A.)

The estimated receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852, are-

Receipts from customs, 1st quarter, by actual returns . \$14,754,909 34

Receipts from customs, 2d, 3d,
and 4th quarters, as esti-

Receipts from lands Receipts from miscellaneous sources Add balance in the Treasury July 1, '51

The actual expenditures for the quarter ending September 30, 1g51, were (As appears by accompanying statement B.)

The estimated expenditures during the other three quarto June 30, 1852, are: Civil list, foreign intercourse, and miscellaneous . Expenses of collecting the re-1,500,000 00 venue from customs Expenses of collecting the re-137 409 88 venue from lands Army proper, &c. .

Fortifications, ordnance, arm-1,675,979 02 ing militia, &c. . Internal improvements, &c. 167,457 48 Indian department 2,631,647 18 1.661,503 15 Pensions Naval establishment, including

dry docks and ocean steam-7 659 129 50 Purchase of stock of the loan . 1,889,475 79 of 1847 . . . Leaving an estimated balance in the Trea

11,458,748 09 sury July 1, 1852, of . . . The estimated receipts for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1852, and ending June 30, 1853, are: From customs From public lands 2,500,000 00 From miscellaneous sources

51,800,000 00 Total estimated receipts Add estimated balance in the Treasury July 11,458,748 09 \$63,258,743 09 Total means as estimated

The expenditures for the same period, as estimated by the several Departments—of State, Treasury, Interior, War, and Navy, and Postmaster General—are: Balances of former appropriations which will be required

This sum is composed of the following particulars, viz : Civil list, foreign intercourse, \$9,928,952 69 and miscellaneous Expenses of collecting reve-. 2,000,000 00 nue from customs Expenses of collecting revenue = 184,620 00 from lands Army proper, &c. . Fortifications, ordnance, arm-1,799,078 00 ne militia. &c. . 1 494 608 81 Internal improvements, &c. 1,206,530 32

Indian Department Pensions Naval establishment, including dry dock and ocean 10,473,983 64 steam-mail contracts . Interest on public debt . 3,879,690 70 Purchase of stock of the loan of 1847 . . .

\$42,892,299 19 Leaving a balance in the Treasury July 1, The total receipts from all sources for the last fiscal

year amounted to \$52,312,979,87, which, with the balance in the Treasury on the 1st of July, 1850, of \$6,604,544 49, gave, as the total available means for the year ending 30th June last, the sum of \$58,917,524 86; of this amount \$40,017,567,02 of this amount \$49,017,567 92 were received from cus-The receipts for the quarter ending 30th September

last were \$15,561,511.83, of which \$14,754,909.34 were from customs; for the corresponding quarter of the previous year the customs yielded the gross sum of \$14,764,-It is presumed that the receipts for the three rethose of the corresponding quarters of the last year, and hence the receipts from that source have been estimated at \$49,000,000. The estimated total receipts for the current fiscal year

mated at \$50,952,902.59. Total receipts for the next fiscal year are estimated at \$51,800,000. In order to present the various objects of expenditure to Congress in the most distinct manner possible, I have caused the estimates for the next fiscal year to be prepared with such view, and therefore the amounts required for the usual and long-established wants of the Government have been separated from such as are deemed ne

cessary for the protection and welfare of our newly-ac-quired Territories, and demanded in the fulfilment of our digations, express or implied, in connexion therewith. It need scarcely be stated that a large proportion of the increased expenditures of the Government in times of profound peace are consequent upon the acquisition of our new Territories. The estimates for those Territories, in ion to the otherwise ordinary wants of the Government, are deemed essential to their well-being, and are submitted with the hope that Congress will pursue a liberal course of policy towards that younger and weaker portion of our country; as it cannot be doubted that when a permanent population shall possess them, and consequent advancement in all the elements of civilization shall be realized, they will amply repay present expenditures by permanent and powerful augmentation of the national

The expenditures for the ordinary wants of the Government for the next fiscal year are estimated at \$33,343, 219.07, as will appear in the detail of estimates already transmitted to Congress.

Those submitted as required by our new Territories, and in the fulfilment of our obligations consequent upon their acquisition, amount in part to \$9,549,080.12, as follows:

Survey of the boundary line between the United States and Mexico Survey of the west coast Dry dock in California Mileage and per diam of Senators and Rep. resentatives from California, Utah, and New Mexico Territorial Governments of Utah and New Mexico .
Judicial expenses, including marshals Expenses of commission for settling land titles in California Expenses of surveys in California Expenses of surveys and sales of public lands in California Pensions under the acts of 1848

Expenses of Post Office Department . Excess of expenditures of War Department in the maintenance of troops, &c. in the new

Territories .
Interest on so much of the debt contracted consequence of and during the late war